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#### **TALENTS DURBAN 2019 PARTICIPANTS**



Alexandre Sibomana (Rwamda)



(Cameroon)



**Damaris Irungu** (Kenya)



**Derby Bheta** (Zimbabwe)



Inès Arsi (Tunisia)



Jabulile Newman (South Africa) 0



Jeoffrey Mukubi (Namibia)



Kayode Faniyi (Nigeria) Г



Minenhle Luthul (South Africa) 8



om van Ni (South Africa)



Ikululeko Zilibokwe (South Africa)



(Benin)





Samantha Biffot (Gabon)



Samira Pinto (Cape Verde)

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Shema Deve (Rwanda)

And a state



Vusiafrica Sindane (South Africa)



Kola Mteto (South Africa)

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## Talents **Durban** 2019

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### Talents Durban 18-22 July 2019

## Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to all participants and mentors of the 2019 Talents Durban programme!

The Durban International Film Festival and the Durban FilmMart proudly present the 12th edition of Talents Durban in co-operation with Berlinale Talents. The five-day intensive programme of workshops, masterclasses and networking activities is delivered by industry-renowned mentors and film professionals. Eighteen Talents have been invited to share knowledge, establish relationships and be a part of a specialised professional development programme that runs during one of the longest-running film festivals in Africa. This year's edition runs from 18-22 July, representing 15 filmmakers and three film critics from 12 countries across the Continent.

Following a global renaissance of African cinema and television on the Continent, the demand for stories from Africa is rising. African storytellers and audiences seeking to connect with African cinema increasingly grapple with the question: "What is 'authentic' African cinema?" and our 2019 theme, 'A Journey to Authenticity', seeks to align with these introspections. For the filmmaker, this question has a far more inward dimension as well – before the auteurs can offer the answer to this question, they have to ask the question of themselves: "What is authentic to me?" Through



**Chipo Zhou** Festival Manager



**Toni Monty** Durban FilmMart

a five-day programme of masterclasses, mentorship, and networking on offer, Talents Durban seeks to unearth these critical voices in African cinema.

Talents Durban welcomes projects of all media formats such as film, television series, web series and content for mobile platforms. The programme will host mentorship sessions and hands-on training workshops, discussions, screenings, and specialised programmes for specific disciplines, including directing, scriptwriting and reviewing films for print and TV. Talents Press, in co-operation with FIPRESCI and the Goethe-Institut, will once again provide a programme of mentorship for emerging film critics. Through the international programme, with a network that extends to Talents International events in Berlin, Buenos Aires, Rio, Guadalajara, Sarajevo, Beirut and Tokyo, as well as Durban, participants are initiated into a global community of filmmakers and connected via a wide social network platform operated through the Berlinale.

Finally, we wish all the 2019 participants a marvellous journey in authenticity!

Talents Durban is an initiative of the Durban International Film Festival in cooperation with Berlinale Talents, with support from the German Embassy of South Africa, the Goethe-Institut of South Africa, Gauteng Film Commission, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development and Tourism, and KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission. We extend sincere thanks to these partners, without whom this programme would not be possible.



## **Programme Overview**

### FESTIVAL OPENING AND SCREENINGS

This year, the Talents Durban begins with the opening of the 40<sup>th</sup> Durban International Film Festival (DIFF) and the screening of the opening film *Knuckle City* directed by *Jahmil X.T. Qubeka*. Your Talents Durban accreditation allows you free access to all festival screenings.

#### MENTORSHIP

Each of the Talents Durban participants will receive a mentor for an intensive programme of one-on-one consultation and project and strategy development workshops for the entire group. The mentors selected are experts in their respective fields (e.g. documentary, fiction, drama series, web, mobile content TV and animation) that suit the needs of the participant and the project.

#### TALENT LABS

The Talents Durban programme features three hands-on development programmes: Doc Lab, Storytelling Lab and Talent Press. **Doc Lab** selects three documentary projects in development for coaching and mentoring towards participating in a public pitch at the DFM's pitching forum, The African Pitch. Participants are given mentoring and preparations prior to the pitch. **Storytelling Lab** is a script development programme for feature, short, TV, web series, and animation projects. Talents are paired with mentors who assist in clarifying story structures and helping to arrive at an advanced draft of their script. **Talent Press**, presented in cooperation with FIPRESCI, invites three critics to cover the films and events of the DIFF for online and print publications.

#### STORYTELLING LAB

#### **Feature Films**

Mentor – Sean Drummond Talents:

- Spirit (South Africa), Director: Vusiafrica Sindane
- Black Widow (Rwanda), Director: Shema Deve
- No Country for Little Girls' Tantrums (Uganda), Director: Patience Nitumwesiga

#### **Short Films**

Mentor – Bongi Ndaba Talents:

- Heart Attack (South Africa), Screenwriter:
   Minenhle Luthuli
- Strong Girls (Tunisia), Director: Inès Arsi
- Organized Crime (Zimbabwe), Director: Derby Bheta

#### **TV and Web Series**

Mentor - Rolie Nikiwe

- Outfoxed (South Africa), Screenwriter: Jabulile Nadia Newman
- Mau Mau (Kenya), Screenwriter: Damaris Irungu
- Mami Wata (Gabon), Screenwriter: Samantha
  Biffot

#### **Animation Lab**

Mentor – Danny Rose Talents:

- The Mystery of Waza (Cameroon), Animation
   Director: Claye Edou
- Box Cutters (South Africa), Animation Director: Naomi van Niekerk
- The Course (Le Parcours) (Benin), Animation Director: Odilon Assou



#### Doc Lab

Mentor – Rama Thiaw Talents:

- And Who Will Cook? (Cape Verde), Director: Samira
   Pinto
- The Sweet Cursed Dance (Rwanda), Director: Sibomana Alexandre
- Twelve Pangas (South Africa), Director: Xola Mteto

Doc Lab is a hands-on training programme in which three Talents Durban participants who submitted documentary projects are given expert mentorship on their work. The participants then pitch their project at the Durban FilmMart's African Pitching Forum.

#### TALENTS PRESS

Talents Durban mentors three emerging African film critics and journalists through Talent Press, which is an initiative of Talents Durban in collaboration with FIPRESCI and the Goethe-Institut. FIPRESCI is an organisation of film critics and film journalists established in different countries for the promotion and development of film culture, and is a tailor-made platform for participants to deepen their knowledge of current trends in world cinema, as they cover the 40th Durban international Film Festival.

Mentor – Peter Machen

Talents:

- Nkululeko Zilibokwe (South Africa), Talent Press
- Jeoffrey Mukubi (Namibia), Talent Press
- Kayode Faniyi (Nigeria), Talent Press

#### **Masterclasses and Networking Opportunities**

A small programme of hands-on seminars and masterclasses will be presented by leading practitioners in cinema.

Talents Durban invites participants to attend a networking function on each of the days of the programme. In addition, participants of the Talents Durban programme will be invited to all festival functions as well as Durban FilmMart events.

#### Workshops and Seminars

The Talents Durban programme features a daily schedule of masterclasses and workshops, tailor-made for all participants. Please ensure that you check your schedule regularly so that you are able to experience Talents Durban to its fullest.

#### **Story Junction**

This is a platform showcasing projects linked to DIFF. Participants will represent their projects to peers and industry delegates, who will request meetings with projects they wish to engage further.



### **Programme Breakdown**

	DAY 1				
	Wednesday, 17 July 2019				
07h00-18h30	ARRIVAL				
Participants	All Talents				
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade				
19h00 till late	DURBAN FILMMART & TALENTS DURBAN PROJECTS DINNER				
Participants	All Talents				
Venue	California Dreaming				
	DAY 2				
Thursday, 18 July 2019					
07h00-08h30	EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST: Welcome and Induction				
Participants	All Talents				
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade				
09h00-10h00	TALENTS INTRODUCTIONS				
Participants	All Talents				
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood				
10h00-12h00	TALENTS STORY LABS: project presentations in lab groups (15 mins per Talent)				
Participants	All Story Lab Talents				
Venue	Venue: Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood				
10h00-12h00	DFM DOC PITCHING WORKSHOP PROGRAMME				
Participants	Doc Lab Talents				
Venue	Elangeni, Suite 4				
13h00-14h00	LUNCH				
14h00-15h00	TALENTS STORY LABS MENTOR TALKS: Producing for TV, live action and animation – Danny Rose				
Participants	All Story Lab Talents				
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood				
15h00-16h00	TALENTS PRESS MENTOR TALKS: Talking about cinema – Peter Machen				
Participants	All Talents				
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood				
14h00-16h00	DFM DOC PITCHING REHEARSALS				
Participants	Doc Lab Talents				
Venue	Elangeni, Suite 4				
16h00-18h00	TALENTS STORYTELLING LABS: Project one-on-one meetings				



Participants	All Story Lab Talents			
Venue	Elangeni, Industry Lounge/Garden Court, Marine Parade			
19h00 till late	DURBAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OPENING NIGHT			
Participants	All Talents			
Venue	ICC Durban			
	DAY 3			
Friday, 19 July 2019				
07h00-08h30	EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST			
Participants	All Talents			
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade			
09h00-10h00	TALENTS STORY LABS: Mentor Talks – Story structure and plotting, Sean Drummond			
Participants	All Story Lab Talents			
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood			
09h00-10h00	TALENTS PRESS: Interviews			
Participants	Talent Press			
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Hilton			
10h00-11h00	TALENTS STORY LABS: Project one-on-one meetings			
Participants	All Story Lab Talents			
Venue	Elangeni, Industry Lounge/Garden Court, Marine Parade			
11h00-12h00	TALENTS INTERNATIONAL FAMILY: Meet the Global Talents Network			
Participants	All Talents			
Venue	Elangeni, Suite 4			
12h00-13h00	TALENTS STORY LABS: Project one-on-one meetings			
Participants	All Story Lab Talents			
Venue	Elangeni, Industry Lounge/Garden Court, Marine Parade			
12h00-13h00	TALENTS PRESS: Interviews			
Participants	Talent Press			
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Hilton			
13h00-14h00	LUNCH			
14h00-15h00	TALENTS STORY LABS: Project one-on-one meetings			
Participants	All Story Lab Talents			
Venue	Elangeni, Industry Lounge/Garden Court, Marine Parade			
14h00-15h00	DOC LAB: One-on-one sessions			
Participants	Doc Lab Talents			
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood			
15h00-16h00	AUTHENTHIC, HOW? A CONVERSATION ON PRAXIS – Fanyana Hlabangane; Arthi Partra Ruga ( <i>Realness</i> )			



Participants	All Talents	
Venue	Elangeni, Suite 3	
16h00-18h00	DOC LAB: One-on-one sessions	
Participants	Doc Lab Talents	
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood	
16h00-18h00	TALENTS PRESS: Editorial Meeting	
Participants	Talent Press	
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Hilton	
19h00 till late	DURBAN FILMMART & TALENTS DURBAN OPENING FUNCTION	
Participants	All Talents	
Venue	Maharani, Sky Venue	
	DAY 4	
	Saturday, 20 July 2019	
07h00-08h30	EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST	
Participants	All Talents	
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade	
09h00-10h00	TALENTS STORY LABS MENTOR TALKS: Character Development – Bongi Ndaba	
Participants	All Story Lab Talents	
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood	
10h00-13h00	TALENTS STORY LABS: Project one-on-one meetings	
Participants	All Story Lab Talents	
Venue	Elangeni, Industry Lounge/Garden Court, Marine Parade	
13h00-14h00	LUNCH	
14h00-15h00	ROUNDTABLES: Documentary Film Professionals	
Participants	Doc Lab Talents	
Venue	Elangeni, Suite 3	
14h00-15h00	DOC LABS: Project one-on-one meetings	
Participants	Doc Lab Talents	
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood	
14h00-15h00	TALENTS PRESS: Editorial Meeting	
Participants	Talent Press	
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Hilton	
15h00-16h00	FILMMAKING AND TAKING RISKS – Iman Djionne (The Boxer); Beza Hailu Lemma (Realness)	
Participants	All Talents	
Venue	Elangeni, Suite 4	
16h00-18h00	DOC LABS: Project one-on-one meetings	
Participants	Doc Lab Talents	



Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood	
16h00-18h00	TALENTS PRESS: Editorial Meeting	
Participants	Talent Press	
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Hilton	
18h30-20h00	TALENTS SCREENING: Ouaga Girls (Burkina Faso) Theresa Traore Dahlberg	
Participants	All Talent	
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood	
20h30 till late	SIMON SABELA AWARDS	
Participants	All Talents	
Venue	The Playhouse Company, Opera Theatre	
	DAY 5	
	Sunday, 21 July 2019	
07h00-08h30	EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST	
Participants	All Talents	
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade	
09h00-10h00	TALENTS STORY LABS: Mentor talks – texture, dialogue – Rolie Nikiwe	
Participants	All Story Lab Talents	
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood	
10h00-13h00	TALENTS STORY LABS: Project one-on-one meetings	
Participants	All Story Lab Talents	
Venue	Elangeni, Industry Lounge/Garden Court, Marine Parade	
13h00-14h00	LUNCH	
14h00-15h00	ROUNDTABLES: Women Film Professionals in Focus (@ELANGENI Suite 4)	
Participants	Talents	
Venue	Elangeni, Industry Lounge	
14h00-15h00	DOC LAB: One-on-one sessions	
Participants	Doc Lab Talents	
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood	
15h00-16h00	HOW TO STAY TRUE TO YOUR VISION – Cathrine Myburgh (Dying For Gold)	
	Jahmil Qubeka (Knuckle City)	
Participants	Storytelling Lab Talents	
Venue	Elangeni, Suite 4	
16h00-18h00	DOC LAB: One-on-one sessions	
Participants	Doc Lab Talents	



Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood			
15h00-17h00	TALENTS PRESS: Editorial Meeting			
Participants	Talent Press			
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Hilton			
17h30-19h00	TALENTS SCREENING: Kasala! (Nigeria) by Ema Edosio Deelen			
Participants	All Talent			
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood			
DAY 6				
Monday, 22 July 2019				
07h00-08h30	EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST			
Participants	All Talents			
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade			
09h00-10h00	TALENTS STORY LABS: MENTOR TALKS – Presenting your story – Rama Thiaw			
Participants	All Story Lab Talents			
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood			
09h00-13h00	TALENTS PRESS: Interviews			
Participants	Talent Press			
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Hilton			
10h00-12h00	TALENTS STORY JUNCTION: Project Presentations			
Participants	All Talents			
Venue	Elangeni, Suite 4			
13h00-14h00	LUNCH			
14h00-15h00	BRING ON THE BLACK FEMALE LEADS – Tchiako Omawale (Solace), Becs Arachanga (Vai)			
Participants	Talents			
Venue	Elangeni, Suite 4			
15h00-17h00	TALENTS STORY JUNCTION: Presentation of Realness Project and Realness Residency for 2019			
Participants	All Talents			
Venue	Elangeni, Suite 4			
16h30-17h30	TALENTS PRESS: Editorial Meeting			
Participants	Talent Press			
Venue	Garden Court, Marine Parade, Hilton			
19h30 till late	DURBAN FILMMART & TALENTS DURBAN CLOSING FUNCTION			
Participants	All Talents			
Venue	Maharani, Tugela			



## **Talents Screenings**

#### KNUCKLE CITY Jahmil X.T. Qubeka

#### Jahmil X.T. Qubeka South Africa 2019 124 min. isiYhasa with English subt

124 min, isiXhosa with English subtitles

From acclaimed director Jahmil Qubeka comes *Knuckle City* – a slice of life in South Africa's Mdantsane township – in which we follow the journey of Dudu, a down-and-out boxer as he struggles to take part in the one fight that he believes will uplift his fractured family. Knowing that the boxing world is rife with criminality, he enlists the help of his reckless but resourceful gangster brother. Haunted by the ghost of their father, Dudu soon finds that the fight at home is far more challenging than any opponent he could possibly face in the ring.

#### 18 July, 19:00, ICC Durban

**KASALA!** 

Ema Edosio

Nigeria 2018

#### 84 min, English | Yoruba with English subtitles

Kasala! – pidgin slang for trouble – is a fast-paced comedy taking unconventional form. Set in a Nigerian slum, the film introduces us to Tunji, a smooth-talking teenager who borrows his no-nonsense Uncle's car and persuades his friends, Chikodi, Effiong, and Abraham, to join him on a joyride around the neighbourhood. Things turn sour when they crash the car and have only five hours to raise the required funds to fix the vehicle before Tunji's Uncle gets home from work. The result is a madcap and hilarious romp through the dangerous streets of Lagos.

23 July, 18:30, Musgrave 3; 27 July, 20:30, Musgrave 1

#### SOLACE Tchaiko Omawale USA 2018 81 min, English

In this inspired coming-of-age drama, 17-year-old Sole, who has an eating disorder, is sent from New York to Los Angeles to live with her estranged Grandma Irene following the death of her father. With the help of two slacker neighbours who become her misfit friends, Sole plots her escape through a collaborative art project that leads them on a startling path to self-discovery. With tender and nuanced direction, the film digs into the experience of finding one's voice amid trauma and loss and struggles with interiority and sexuality. *Solace* marks director Tchaiko Omawale as a talent to watch.

20 July, 19:15, Suncoast 1; 21 July, 12:00, Musgrave 3; 24 July, 16:00, Suncoast 6

#### **MOTHER, I AM SUFFOCATING**

Dir Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese Lesotho | Qatar 2019 76 min, English

On the dusty streets of Lesotho, people stare inquisitively at a young woman who carries a wooden cross on her back. She looks back into their faces, at the mystically beautiful landscape, a herd of sheep, and a pair of hands that knit unceasingly. Located midway between documentary, fiction, and experimental film, this beautifully rendered film from self-taught director Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese marks him as an important talent to watch. Taking the form of an extended poetic letter to the protagonist's mother and motherland, this is a brave and powerful work of cinema that explores vital contemporary issues.

22 July, 16:00, Musgrave 1; 25 July, 16:00, Musgrave 1



### A World of Talent at DIFF2019

We extend a warm welcome to all alumni Talents with films at the Durban International Film Festival!

LOVE RUNS OUT Roger Young, Director (South Africa) Durban 2014

SIYABONGA: WE ARE Joshua Magor, Director & Producer (South Africa) Berlin 2019

THE WHITE LINE Desiree Kahikopo, Director & Screenwriter (Namibia) Durban 2018

ALICE Josephine Mackerras, Director & Screenwriter (France) Berlin 2011

AUTOMATIC Emma Doxiadi, Producer (Greece) Berlin 2017

BROTHERHOOD Meryam Joobeur, Director (Tunisia) Berlin 2016

FACING NORTH Tukei Peter Muhumuza, Director & Cinematographer (Uganda) Berlin 2011 KADO (A GIFT) Aditya Ahmad, Director & Editor (Indonesia) Berlin 2015

THE OPEN DOOR Jamyang, Director & Screenwriter (Bhutan) Berlin 2019

THE WALKER Yadia Mor-jougan, Director & Screenwriter (Cameroon) Berlin 2018

HAMADA Eloy Dominguez Seren, Director & Editor (Sweden, Spain) Berlin 2017, Doc Station 2017

IN SEARCH Beryl Magoko, Director & Screenwriter (Kenya) Berlin 2013

KHARTOUM OFFSIDE Marwa Zein, Director & Screenwriter (Egypt) Durban 2012

#### **MOTHER, I AM SUFFOCATING**

Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese, Director & Cinematographer (South Africa, Germany) Durban 2017/Berlin 2012

THE CALL Anca Lazarescu, Director & Screenwriter (Germany) Berlin 2005, Berlin 2004

ANBESSA Mo Scarpelli, Producer & Sound Designer (Italy, USA) Berlin 2013

WOMB DANCE Ratsheko Mashilo Nthite, Director (South Africa) Durban 2018

AZIZA Soudade Kaadan, Director (Syria) Berlin 2011

AKASHA Hajooj Kuka, Director (Sudan) Berlin 2016

DIVINE LOVE Gabriel Mascaro, Director (Brazil) Buenos Aires 2008

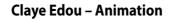
#### NB: Check Durban International Film Festival Programme for screenings

Through the international programme, with a network that extends to Talents International events in Berlin, Buenos Aires, Rio, Guadalajara, Sarajevo, Beirut and Tokyo, as well as Durban, participants are initiated into a global community of filmmakers and connected via a wide social network platform operated through the Berlinale.



### Talents: Class 2019





Claye Edou was born in Djoum, Cameroon. He studied Food Process Engineering then Accounting and Finance. Being a singer and a graphic artist, he decided to bring a loose adaptation of a popular Cameroonian tale to the big screen, leading to the release in 2017 of *Minga and the Broken Spoon*, the first full-length animated feature produced entirely in Cameroon.

#### Damaris Irungu Ochieng – TV/Web Series

Damaris Irungu Ochieng is an International Emmy-award-winning writer (2014) on the three digital platform category for Edutainment comic Shujaaz, Jongo Love Radio and TV Drama (children and young people category). She was born and bred in Nairobi, Kenya where she currently resides. Her accomplishment as a content developer/screenwriter/script editor saw her successfully steer 71 TV movies of different genres for MNET's Africa Magic Original Films project. She has also written several movies for the Nigerian market such as Matchmaker and Tough Ladies and some Kenyan Africa Magic movies such as Kiberan Shakespeare, Sopi, Run Honeymooners, Die husband, Die, among others. She also created and scripted the Africa Magic Viewer's Choice Awards (2016) show Nyumba 10. Ochieng developed the Kalasha award-winner and Riverwood-nominated dramedy Pray & Prey and Jastorina for television, and was head writer on the two shows. Other shows she has worked on in Kenya as a writer and script editor/head writer include Makutano Junction, MNET's Kona, Mali, Sue and Johnny, among others. She's also the creative producer and scriptwriter for the edutainment one-hour magazine show for children The Know Zone airing on Citizen TV. She co-hosts the show and teaches Maths and English in the learning zone segment and she's also a scriptwriting faciliator at ADMI (Africa Digital Media Institute) and at the Multichoice Talent Factory.





#### Derby Bheta – Shorts

Derby Bheta is a 25-year-old filmmaker from Zimbabwe. To date, he has directed up to nine short films, and one of the short films *Things We do for Love* won best Hi-5 Short Film at the Zimbabwe International Film Festival 2017. He has directed one feature film – a crime comedy called *Organized Crime*, which will premiere in August 2019. He also directed two seasons of the fast-growing comedy sitcom in Zimbabwe *Special Class*, which is doing well on YouTube, with the first episode having over 100 000 views.



#### Inès Arsi – Shorts

After three years, Inès Arsi decided to drop out of the Pharmacy University to study cinema. She graduated in scriptwriting and directing from the Graduate School of Audiovisual and Cinema (three years at Gammarth-Tunis), and made a few short movies screened at Arabic and international festivals. She then studied the documentary genre at La Femis (Paris-France) where she made *All the Truth, Nothing but the Truth,* which is a mockumentary. She wanted to deepen her knowledge in that genre and participated in a documentary workshop specialised in anthropology films, directed by Hichem Ben Ammar. Arsi's graduation project *Yes but Not* was seen at some festivals, which gave her the opportunity to be a member of the UNIMED jury at the 74th edition of La Mostra of Venice. She also participated in a workshop directed by Khairy Beshara in March 2017, where she made a short documentary. She is now working on an upcoming short fiction film with Yol Film House.



#### Jabulile Nadia Newman – TV/Web Series

Jabu Nadia Newman is an artist who works through the mediums of photography and film. Using an agenda of pushing intersectional feminism, her work is largely based on the different and complex identities of South African women. The creator of SA's newest feminist web series The Foxy Five, which has been featured on prestigious media platforms such as Okayafrica, Mail & Guardian, The Citypress and others, completed six episodes between June 2016 and June 2017. In 2017, she spoke at the Design Indaba Simulcast Conference 2017 and has screened her work at The Black Filmmakers Festival, The Labia, 12th XPOSED International Queer Film Festival Berlin, and more. She's also directed and shot two short films - a fashion film called Dirty Laundry 2016 and a documentary called Femme in Public 2017, which featured queer and trans activists Alok Vaid-Menon, Joshua Allen, Quaid 'Queezy' Heneke, and more. In 2018, Newman co-directed, with Luvuyo Nyawose, a short film for FAKA and Angel-Ho in collaboration with the Goethe Institute titled Queenie. In October 2018, Newman spent a month in France as part of a writing residency after she won the online pitch competition through Digital Lab Africa in Web Creation for her new web series Outfoxed. During her residency, she was part of the writing residency at the Marseille Web Fest where she won the Best Pitch Award again for Outfoxed. Newman art directed an AFDA Honours film titled Doreen, which was nominated at the 2019 SAFTA's for best student film, and is currently streaming on Showmax.



#### Jeoffrey Mukubi – Talent Press

Jeoffrey Mukubi is a 24-year-old multi-disciplinary artist. Since graduating in 2016, he has worked for The National Broadcaster (NBC radio) as well as BASE FM, which is a community-based radio station. In 2017, he became an entertainment journalist and that opened doors for becoming a festival director. He now co-owns and manages two annual arts festivals in Namibia, namely: KIFA (Kalahari International



Festival of Arts) since 2015 and NAF (Namibia Arts Fair) since 2018. Mukubi is also a contemporary neo-soul musician and plays the guitar under the Alias JEFF A.D. He is currently writing his first drama series about post-apartheid millennials and the issues they face in Namibia.



#### Kayode Faniyi – Talent Press

Kayode Faniyi is a writer, critic and communications professional. His work is primarily in fiction and critical essays and has been published by notable African platforms such as *This is Africa, Music in Africa, Africa is a Country, Brittle Paper* and the *Kalahari Review*. He studied Microbiology at the Obafemi Awolowo University, lle Ife, and later obtained a Master's Degree in Literature from the University of Lagos. Fayini began his professional life in 2009 as a holiday editorial intern at Lagoon Communications in Lagos, later rising to become Associate Editor in 2014, and an Editor-at-Large in 2016. In 2014, he was selected as one of 20 outstanding writers to attend Afrinolly's Ford Foundation-sponsored Cinema4Change Screenwriting Workshop. In 2015, he joined Phillips Consulting as Content Editor. An essay of his was selected by Brittle Paper as one of 79 outstanding pieces of African writing in 2017. In 2018, Fanyini was selected to take part in Goethe Institut's Film Journalism Workshop, and consequently, he was invited to the African International Film Festival 2019 as a special guest.





#### Minenhle Luthuli – Shorts

In her gap year after high school, Minenhle Luthuli worked at Tox Media, a South African TV content producer as their runner, and later on as a production assistant. She then enrolled for her Bachelor's Degree in Motion Picture Medium at AFDA. In 2017, she made her first two short films, which were well received by audiences. Luthuli's experimental film, *Bars*, screened at the Pine River Student Film Festival in America and her other short film, *Umsolwa (The Accused)* screened at the Slum Festival in Kenya and screened in competition at the Lake International Pan African Film Festival. Both films were nominated for Best Student Film at the Simon Sabela Awards in South Africa, with *The Accused* taking the award. During her undergraduate years, she interned for different television production companies, including Red Pepper Studios, as a screenwriter. Last year, 2018, during her Honours year, Luthuli was a student mentor at DIFF. She is currently developing his next short film, *Heart Attack*.

#### Naomi van Niekerk - Animation

Naomi van Niekerk is a contemporary artist with a background in theatre studies (Wits University, Johannesburg), visual arts and puppeteering (Ecole Nationale Supérièure des Arts de la Marionnette, France). She enjoys combining these techniques of storytelling in live performance and often collaborates with musicians and dancers to create eclectic theatre pieces and installations that include her interest in shadow puppetry, drawing and bringing inanimate objects to life. While continuing to tour with different multi-media performance pieces, she is also making animation films, focusing on stop-motion animation and sand animation, in particular. Between 2015 and 2017, she directed and independently produced three animated short films that were extensively shown at many international film festivals: *'n Gewone Blou Maandagoggend (An Ordinary Blue Monday), By Alle Skone Dinge (To all Things Beautiful)* and most recently, *My Mamma is Bossies (My Mum's Bonkers)*. She won the Jean-Luc Xiberras Award for Best First Film at the Annecy International Film Festival (2016) for her short film *An Ordinary Blue Monday*. Residencies have included: Institut internationale de la Marrionnette, Charleville-Mézières, France (Research, 2013); Goethe Institut of Johannesburg (Creation, 2013, 2014); Cinémathèque Quebecois, Montréal (Research and development; 2018); and Lucid Realities, Paris (VR Research and development, 2019).



An award-winning former journalist and now founder and managing director of Triple Double Media, Nkululeko Zilibokwe attended the Caxton Journalism Academy in 2015 where he was voted the best Cadet through all Caxton branches in South Africa. She then worked as a journalist for three years, winning multiple awards. In 2017, he then went on to work for an entertainment PR company known as Sheila Afari. In 2018, Zilibokwe founded his own company Triple Double Media, which specialises in entertainment and film and aims to bridge the gap between filmmakers and corporate companies in South Africa. He is currently working with acclaimed South African FILM producer Uga Carlini, who specialises in female-driven heroines as an executive producer in his upcoming film titled *Angeliana*.

#### **Odilon Assou – Animation**

E. Odilon S. Assou was born in Togoudo, Republic of Benin. After graduating in 2011, he began his studies in multimedia scriptwriting at the National School of Information and Communication Science and Technology (ENSTIC). In November 2014, he wrote and directed the nine episodes of Season 1 of the humorous satire series *Les Charclos*. In June 2018, he obtained his end-of-training certificate in 2D and 3D cartoon techniques. He did animated, composited and edited the films *Awa and Mandéda* and *The Misadventures of the Young Kouanga*. Assou also animated and composited the short film *Plastic Bag*. In the same year, he was project manager on the film *Identity*, which was rendered with the technique known as pixilation. In September 2018, he wrote and directed *Le Jeton*, his first realistic short film. He also endorsed the production advisor cap on several school films, including *Ni Lui, Ni Moi* (a documentary by Gildas Dossou), *Innocent Guilty* (short fiction film by Jabeth Beni Ahouissou), *CHOCS* (short fiction film by Amoureck Hounleba), and *Legba, the Auxiliary of God* (documentary by Gildas Dossou). In December, he animated, composited and







edited the clip *Pourquoi* – *Guillaume Experiance*. In January this year, he wrote and directed the series #229 Dayi entirely in motion design. He is currently producing the *Gbangbanville* gags series. He is currently animating, mounting and compositing the short film *Missèbo Band* by Kenneth Vihotogbe Films.







#### Patience Nitumwesiga – Features

Patience Nitumwesiga is a feminist, writer and director. She co-founded Shagika Tales, an organisation dedicated to telling the stories of marginalised persons and advancing the values of the feminist agenda of self-liberation and self-determination. In early 2018, she mobilised a group of artists and activists to start an #EmbroideryForJustice group that uses embroidery to highlight injustices in the country. She was the Director of Keepers by Nicole Salter and Better than Yellow by James Scruggs in the fest of 10-minute plays from 48 Hours in Harlem produced by Silent Voices Uganda in July 2018. A drama graduate of Makerere University, Nitumwesiga participated in a Writing Performances for Young Audiences fellowship with Prospero Performing Arts Institute, Maisha screenwriter's film lab 2011 and 2016, and served as a writer and performer for Rafiki Theatre using participatory drama to cultivate the spirit of non-violence in communities across East Africa. She translated Mother Uganda and Her Children by Rose Mbowa, published together with other five plays from East and West Africa, and was a writer and first assistant director for the popular television series Yat Madit. Recently, she premiered Communion, an experimental film she wrote and directed, which toured in the UK before premiering in Kampala - it was an official selection at Mashariki African Film Festival.

#### Samantha Biffot – TV/Web Series

After finishing her cinema studies in France, Samantha Biffot returned to Gabon in 2010 where she founded her production company. She wrote and directed a TV series that won Best TV Series in 2013 at FESPACO. She has directed a feature documentary *The African who Wanted to Fly*, which was selected in multiple festivals, including the 2017 Durban International Film Festival; she hosted an africadoc workshop in Brazzaville for this documentary. She has written and directed two short comedy TV series for TV5 and Canal +; one is currently broadcasting and is at its sixth season on TV5. Biffot is currently developing an 8X52'TV series for Canal +.

#### Samira Pinto – Documentaries

Born in São Vicente, Samira Vera-Cruz is a young Cape Verdean film director and producer. With a major in Film Studies and a minor in Global Communications by the American University of Paris (France), she has experience working in Cabo Verde and Angola. She started her own production company, Parallax Produções, in November 2016. Pinto debuted her career as a director with the short film *Buska Santu*, which was shown in various festivals and was the winner of Best Fiction Film

at Oiá Festival, 2017 (Mindelo, Cabo Verde). Pinto directed her first documentary *Hora di Bai*, which premiered in Maputo, Mozambique and Short Films PALOP-TL UE 25 years, representing Cabo Verde. As part of the prize, she participated in the artistic residency in Maputo in 2017 to organise the pre-production of the short film. *Hora di Bai* has been screened in festivals in Cabo Verde, Brazil, Canada, United States of America, Portugal, Brussels, Poland, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Angola, São Tomé and Principe, Macau, East Timor and Madagascar. She also participated in an artistic residency in Brussels during the Cine Luso Espírito Mundo Film Festival in 2017, for which she co-directed, filmed and edited a short experimental film. She premiered her first feature film, *Sukuru*, a psychological thriller about schizophrenia and drug abuse, produced entirely without financing. She is currently pre-producing her next documentary *E quem Cozinha? (And Who will Cook?)* about the reality of Capeverdean women through the experience of young blind Patrícia.

#### Shema Deve – Features

Shema Deve, 27, Rwandan author, film writer, director and producer, attended several screenwriting workshops and the Haile Gerima 2017 directing workshop in Luxor-Egypt. *Running* is the first short film he made in 2015 that was nominated at the Focus on Ability Short Film Festival in Australia, Mashariki African Film Festival and Rwanda Film Festival, and it was screened in Zimbabwe in 2016. *Disconnected* is his latest short film he shot in a single take, which was nominated at DIFF 2018, Cefalu Film Festival 2018 in Italy and screened in NewFilmMakers Los Angeles at South Park Center in 2018. He worked on other short films, mostly as a producer. One of the short films he produced, *Beautiful Exchange* by Kamanzi Nicole, won the Best Story at the Christian Film Festival in Congo 2018. He is now producing a feature documentary *Kinema*, which is in post-production. His first feature fiction project *Black Widow* won in a co-production Kigali audiovisual forum in 2018.

#### Alexandre Sibomana – Documentaries

Alexandre Sibomana first started making movies when he was 20 years old, right after graduating from secondary school. In 2010, he attended three intensive months of filmmaking at a workshop organised by Almond Tree Films Rwanda (a local film production company). Sibomana has worked as an editor on various short films from local talented filmmakers. He is the editor of *Ruhago*, a short film directed by Mbabazi Aime Philbert – the film won Best Short Film in the Rwanda Movie Awards 2012 and the Signes Award at Zanzibar International Film Festival 2012. He continued his career in film editing, which enabled him to have more than 17 editing credits of short films. Many of those films were screened and won awards in various local and international film festivals. Sibomana participated in different film workshops like One Fine Day Workshop (Kenya) 2012, Maisha Doc lab 2013 (Uganda), and Luxor African Film Festival Workshop (Egypt) 2018. In 2015, his script *One Leg One Love* won a local









competition Inclusion: Dare to be Different! organised by Goethe Institut-Kigali, and he produced a short film called One Leg One Love – the film was screened in Kigali to invited audiences. In 2017, he co-produced with a well-known Tanzanian filmmaker, Martin Mhando, his first feature film titled A Seed of Memories, a film that premiered in June 2017 at the Zanzibar International Film Festival (Tanzania). The film was also selected in Long Narrative Competition at Luxor International Film Festival 2018. His latest is a short film called Carver, which premiered at Zanzibar International Film Festival 2018. Currently, Sibomana is developing his first feature documentary called The Sweet Cursed Dance, which was selected at the Luxor African Film Festival 2019 in development workshop mentored by award-winning film director Jihan El-Tahri.

#### Vusiafrica Sindane – Features

Vusiafrica Sindane completed his honours degree at Tshwane University of Technology, and as a student, his first film was selected for broadcast in 2015 by Star Sat. After completing his studies, he produced two independent films: *Memeza* (2016) – the film went on to be broadcast on Star Times Africa – *Die Kaal Kraal* (2017) was officially selected at the Silicon Valley African Film Festival (USA), DIFF and Africa International Film Festival. Sindane has just completed his first feature film commissioned by the National Film and Video Foundation, which is scheduled for principal photography in April 2020. He is also a master's candidate at the Tshwane University of Technology in Film and Drama Department.

#### Xola Mteto – Documentaries

The past two years have given Xola Mteto incredible experience in inclusive digital storytelling. His involvement in community development has helped him understand the power of media to change social and environmental issues, particularly in communities of colour. Most recently, at Umuzi, he learnt how to run projects from concept to execution to review, filling different roles throughout the year. Mteto's primary focus is documentary filmmaking where his core competencies are research, directing, editing and videography, ideally while training young people in basic storytelling. He wants to focus more on building this experience while developing his skills as a digital storyteller.





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## Mentors



#### Bongi Ndaba

Bongi Ndaba is an actress and writer who was born in the Free State and grew up in the Eastern Cape and KZN. She started out in theatre at the Playhouse Company in Durban and also worked for North West Arts in Mafikeng. She has written for most SABC dramas, including *Mzansi 2, Gaz'lam, Muvhango* and *Society II.* The series *Sokhulu and Partners*, which she wrote for SABC 1, won seven SAFTAS. Her play *Shreds and Dreams*, developed under the mentorship of Zakes Mda, was developed as a TV series which aired on SABC 1. In addition to numerous other writing work, she was nominated for a SAFTA for Best Supporting Role in an adaptation of King Lear named *Izingane Zobaba*. Her short film *Father Christmas Doesn't Come Around Here* was awarded Best Narrative Short at the 2010 Tribeca Film Festival.

#### **Peter Machen**

Peter Machen is a writer, designer and artist from Durban, South Africa. A respected art critic and film writer, Machen headed DIFF from 2013 to 2016 and has worked with the festival as a programmer and writer since 2008. He was the arts editor of the *Independent on Saturday* in the early 2000s, is the author and designer of two coffee table books about Durban, and has worked as an arts correspondent for numerous national and international publications. He currently heads the media cooperative The Communication Factory, works for a plant-based advocacy organisation, and lives in Berlin.







#### **Danny Rose**

Danny Rose has been working as a television producer for the last 20 years. His expert knowledge and experience in recognising talent, character and story development, and trends in the marketplace have made him a great partner to networks, studios, and co producers. Rose just completed four seasons as an Executive Producer on the hit CBS drama series *Scorpion*. He is currently executive-producing Netflix's first animated event series. He also has several series in development.

Having served as as a producer on all 102 episodes of *Cougar Town* and all 182 episodes of the worldwide hit comedy *Scrubs*, Rose started his broadcast network career on the successful show *Spin City*. Born and raised in Miami, Rose graduated with an MFA from New York University. He has lived in Los Angeles since 1999 and is currently represented by the Creative Artists Agency.



#### **Rama Thiaw**

Rama Thiaw was born in 1978, in Nouakchott, Mauritania. Mauritanian and Senegalese, she grew up between Africa and Europe. She has master's degrees in International Economics and Filmmaking. Her 2009 feature-length documentary film, *Boul Fallé*, the way of wrestling, was followed by *The Revolution Won't Be Televised*, which won numerous awards, including the FIPRESCI Critics Prize at the Berlinale 2016 and The Jury Prize at Carthage.

She was a Talent in Durban in 2013 and in Berlin in 2014 and is a Hot Docs and Takmill alumni. Since 2011, she has lived in Dakar, where she heads her production company and teaches cinema. She is currently in pre-production with her fourth feature documentary *The Vanishing*, and is developing her first fiction feature *Life In A Spiral*.



#### **Rolisizwe Nikiwe**

Rolisizwe Nikiwe is a multi-award winning creative director. Creator and director of the long-running soapie *Rhythm City*, he has directed numerous award-winning drama series. He is a consultant on the KZN-based soapie *Uzalo*, and, with more than 15 years in the industry, continues to be a sought-after speaker, workshop facilitator, and judge on many industry platforms. He is the co-owner of Branded Soul Productions, an award-winning TV and film production company that produced *Matatiele*, a 26-part rural drama series for e-TV which won three awards at the SAFTAs, as well as *Heist*, which won seven SAFTAs. He is currently developing a slate of feature films.

#### Sean Drummond

Sean Drummond is an alumnus of Talents Durban has an Honours degree in Screenwriting and Documentary Film. He has established himself as a screenwriter, creative and conceptual producer, as well as documentary director, through his own Be Phat Motel production company.

His debut feature film *Five Fingers for Marseilles* premiered at Toronto International Film Festival, winning numerous awards. His shorts and feature documentaries have screened extensively at festivals around the world and he has several film and television projects in development. Sean is the founding manager of the Cape Town chapter of the Shnit Worldwide Shortfilmfestival, and he sits on the festival's international executive and programming committees. He has hosted panels on development, production, finance and distribution around South Africa and serves on the Writers' Guild of South Africa's executive council. He is represented by William Morris Endeavor and Management 360.





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### **Masterclass and Mentor Talk**

#### TALENTS STORY LABS MENTOR TALKS: PRODUCING FOR TV, LIVE ACTION AND ANIMATION – DANNY ROSE

DATE: Thursday, 18 July TIME: 14h00-15h00 VENUE: Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood

#### MASTERCLASS: AUTHENTHIC, HOW?

– FANYANA HLABANGANE; ARTHI PARTRA RUGA (*REALNESS*)

DATE: Friday, 19 July TIME: 15h00-16h00 VENUE: Elangeni, Suite 3

#### TALENTS PRESS MENTOR TALK: TALKING ABOUT CINEMA – PETER MACHEN

DATE: Thursday, 18 July TIME: 15h00-16h00 VENUE: Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood

#### TALENTS STORY LABS MENTOR TALKS: CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

- BONGI NDABA

DATE: Saturday, 20 July TIME: 09h00-10h00 VENUE: Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood

#### TALENTS STORY LABS MENTOR TALKS: STORY STRUCTURE AND PLOTTING - SEAN DRUMMOND

DATE: Friday, 19 July TIME: 09h00-10h00 VENUE: Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood

#### MASTERCLASS: FILMMAKING AND TAKING

**RISKS** – IMAN DJIONNE (*THE BOXER*); BEZA HAILU LEMMA (*REALNESS*)

DATE: Saturday, 20 July TIME: 15h00-16h00 VENUE: Elangeni, Suite 4



#### TALENTS STORY LABS: MENTOR TALKS – TEXTURE, DIALOGUE – ROLIE NIKIWE

DATE: Sunday, 21 July TIME: 09h00-10h00 VENUE: Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood

#### TALENTS STORY LABS: MENTOR TALKS – PRESENTING YOUR STORY – RAMA THIAW

DATE: Monday, 22July TIME: 09h00-10h00 VENUE: Garden Court, Marine Parade, Glenwood

#### TALENTS DURBAN MASTERCLASS: DOCUMENTING THE UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE

MOHAMED SIAM
 DATE: Sunday, 21July
 TIME: 10h00-12h00
 VENUE: Elangeni

### TALENTS DURBAN MASTERCLASS: HOW TO STAY TRUE TO YOUR VISION –

CATHRINE MYBURGH (*DYING FOR GOLD*); JAHMIL QUBEKA (*KNUCKLE CITY*)

DATE: Sunday, 21July TIME: 15h00-16h00 VENUE: Elangeni, Suite 4



### **Round Tables and Discussions**

#### TALENTS INTERNATIONAL FAMILY: MEET THE GLOBAL TALENTS NETWORK

DATE: Friday, 19 July TIME: 10h00-11h00 VENUE: Elangeni, Suite 4

### GOING FOR THE OSCAR LESSONS FROM SOUTH AFRICAN PRODUCERS

DATE: Sunday, 21 July TIME: 15h00-16h00 VENUE: Elangeni, Suite 5

#### DURBAN DOES DOCS: TEACHING DOCUMENTARY

DATE: Friday, 19 July TIME: 10h00-11h00 VENUE: Elangeni

### ROUNDTABLES: WOMEN FILM PROFESSIONALS IN FOCUS

DATE: Sunday, 21 July TIME: 15h00-16h00 VENUE: Elangeni, Suite 4

### ROUNDTABLES: DOCUMENTARY FILM PROFESSIONALS

DATE: Saturday, 20 July TIME: 15h00-16h00 VENUE: Elangeni, Suite 4

#### **BRING ON THE BLACK FEMALE LEADS**

– TCHIAKO OMAWALE (*SOLACE*), BECS ARACHANGA (*VAIL*)

DATE: Monday, 22July TIME: 14h00-15h00 VENUE: Elangeni, Suite 4

### A CONVERSATION WITH AFRICAN FILM CRITICS

DATE: Sunday, 21 July TIME: 12h00-13h00 VENUE: Elangeni, Suite 5





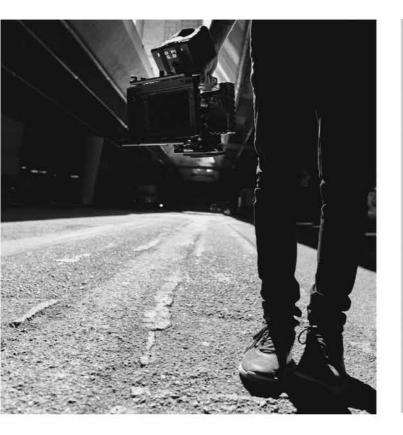


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# 18 - 28 JULY

## **Selection Panel**



#### **Sharon Kakora**

Sharon Kakora is a Durban-based film producer. With a career spanning almost two decades in the film and television industry and acting as a mentor to upcoming filmmakers in KwaZulu-Natal, Kakora is currently in development with new projects. She has produced films such as *lphupho (The Dream)* and *Between Friends*, both of which have screened at DIFF and the Pan African Film Festival.

#### **Bonie Sithebe**

Bonie Sithebe is a creative producer, writer, director and a co-founder of Durban Motion Pictures, a company that has made numerous award-winning films. Her 12-year journey in the film and television industry has had challenging yet rewarding moments leading to success and recognition. She has served as a treasurer of Sister's Working in Film and Television (SWIFT) and is still an active member. Bonie is an enthusiastic collaborator who has established strong relationships with leading broadcasters and international partners.





#### Liza Aziz

Liza Aziz has produced films and television series for a host of companies and institutions in South Africa. Aziz's documentaries have been broadcast on prime time on SABC, e-TV, and M-Net, and have also featured in several acclaimed festivals. *Women on the Beat*, her feature-length documentary investigating the life of women in the South African Police Service, received national critical acclaim. Her documentary *lkhaya* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and went on to screen at numerous festivals. She has produced several other documentaries that have screened around the world to critical acclaim. In addition, she is the founding member and current Chair of Action in Autism, a non-profit organisation for people with Autism.



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#### **Mentors and Leading Speakers**

Bongi Ndaba, Danny Rose, Peter Machen, Rama Thiaw, Rolisizwe Nikiwe, Sean Drummond, Arthi Partra Ruga, Chinonye Chukwu, Don Edkins, Gabriel Mascaro, Hajooj Kucha, Iman Djionne, Jahmil Qubeka, Jerimiah Mesese, Stephanie McAurthur and Tchaiko Omawaled

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